



NEWS RELEASE

Speaker of the House

David Gowan

Arizona House of Representatives

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT FROM SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE DAVID GOWAN

STATE CAPITOL, AZ (Friday, May 1, 2015) – Speaker of the House David Gowan is today releasing the following statement regarding the potential renovations in the Arizona House of Representatives:

“There has been much misinformation surrounding potential plans for renovations in the basement of the House of Representatives. In order to ensure that correct information is shared with the public, a few key facts: I am a staunch proponent of being fiscally conservative, and I believe in protecting staff and providing a healthy workplace for all. The building, which was built in 1957, contains 15-year-old carpeting and there are documented reports of asbestos. With a firm belief in the principle of “leaving things better than you found them” I authorized House staff to begin the process of replacing the carpet and subsequent asbestos abatement in the basement. While working with the Department of Administration on this project, House staff also began to explore the idea of more functional office space for the basement. Many ideas were talked about by staff, but at no time were any firm decisions made.

Despite the project’s preliminary status, it was brought to my attention that several members of the Republican Caucus had concerns based on media reports over the potential fiscal implications that renovations could have. After several constructive meetings with members, I have directed staff that there will be no further renovations in the House basement. However, the health and well-being of members and staff remains a priority for me and I feel strongly that it remains our responsibility to carry out the asbestos abatement once it is exposed by the removal of carpet in the near future.”

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